

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 OPR-02 AID-20

SCS-03 SY-10 USSS-00 DRC-01 /087 W

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R 101125Z DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL TABRIZ

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN UNN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 76

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SOCI, IR

SUBJ: DEMONSTRATION AT TABRIZ UNIVERSITY

REF: TABRIZ A-1 OF MARCH 17, 1973

SUMMARY: SMALL DEMONSTRATION NOV 6, ON ANNIVERSARY OF 1954 STUDENT DEATHS AT TEHRAN, WAS QUICKLY SUPPRESSED BY POLICE IN CLEAR SHOW OF FORCE. DEMONSTRATION MINOR AFFAIR, QUICKLY ENDED, AND SIGNIFICANT ONLY AS SHOWING GOVERNMENT'S FIRM HAND AND REFUSAL TAKE ANY CHANCES ON GRADUAL ESCALATION OF DEMONSTRATION SUCH AS OCCURED LAST YEAR (REFAIR). END SUMMARY.

1. DEMONSTRATION, WHICH HAS BEEN ANNUAL EVENT, WAS APPARENTLY CALM AFFAIR WITH COMMEMORATIVE PLCARDS AND SONGS BUT NO DEMANDS FOR CHANGES OR REFORMS. NUMBERS OF STUDENTS INVOLVED RELATIVELY SMALL, BETWEEN 300 AND 600 OUT OF 6000 PLUS STUDENT BODY. OFFICIALS KNEW OF EVENT AND HAD NOT OBJECTED, BUT SHORTLY AFTER DEMONSTRATION STARTED IT WAS BROKEN UP BY FORCE OF APPROXIMATELY 250 POLICEMEN.

2. SEVERAL WITNESSES
REPORT STUDENTS OFFERED NO VIOLENCE BUT SMALL
GROUPS OF POLICE ATTACKED AND MAY HAVE TAUNTED INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS
PRIOR MAJOR POLICE CHARGE WHICH DISPERSED CROWD. APPARENTLY NO
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STUDENTS SERIOUSLY INJURED. THREE INDEPENDENT SOURCES CONFIRM

THAT ARMY TROOPS IN FULL BATTLE DRESS WERE HELD SEVERAL BLOCKS AWAY AS RESERVE FORCE. THIS CONTRARY LAST YEARS EXPERIENCE WHEN NO TROOPS USED EVEN THOUGH DISRUPTIONS MORE SERIOUS.

3. INTERESTING SIDELIGHT: ENGINEERING AND AGRICULTURE STUDENTS, WHO PLAYED MAJOR ROLE LAST YEAR, TOOK NO PART IN THIS CONFRONTATION AND LEFT LEAD TO STUDENTS OF SCIENCE FACULTY. AS USUAL, MOST PROFESSORS WERE UNSYMPATHETIC TO STUDENTS AND NONE PARTICIPATED IN DEMONSTRATION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, UNIVERSITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TABRIZ00020
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TABRIZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731233/aaaaayhm.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TABRIZ A-1 OF MARCH 17, 1973
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <10-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEMONSTRATION AT TABRIZ UNIVERSITY
TAGS: PINS, SOCI, IR
To: TEHRAN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005